

Frequently-Asked Questions
New Certification Standards for CEOs
July 8, 2010

Q: I am already certified in building standards, do I have to do anything for the new building code?

A: Yes, you will need to be recertified in the individual codes that comprise the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) that you have been appointed by your municipality to enforce. The MUBEC codes are:

Residential building code
Commercial building code
Residential energy code
Commercial energy code
Residential radon code
Indoor residential ventilation code
Indoor commercial ventilation code

If your municipality elects not to have you enforce one or more of these codes, you do not have to be recertified in the code(s) you do not enforce.

If you have been enforcing one or more of these codes since August 1, 2008, some grandfathering provisions may apply (see below).

Q: When do I have to be recertified?

A: You have a one-year grace period in which to become recertified, depending on the effective date of MUBEC enforcement for your municipality.

- For municipalities with a population of more than 2,000 residents and that had adopted any building code by August 1, 2008, the effective enforcement date for MUBEC is December 1, 2010. CEOs have until December 1, 2011 to become recertified.
- For municipalities with a population of more than 2,000 residents and that had not adopted any building code by August 1, 2008, the effective enforcement date for MUBEC is July 1, 2012. CEOs have until July 1, 2013 to become recertified.
- Municipalities with a population of less than 2,000 are not required to enforce MUBEC and the CEO does not need to be certified/recertified in those codes. If a municipality under 2,000 population chooses to have their CEO enforce MUBEC, the CEO/building official would need to become certified/recertified within 12 months of their appointment date for enforcing MUBEC.

The State Planning Office defines “any building code” as a building code or standard locally-adopted based on the Maine model building code under 10 MRSA, chapter 1101 or a national

model building code used to regulate the construction of buildings. A life safety or fire code is not considered as any building code for the purposes of this definition.

Q: How much training do I have to take?

A: If you are not grandfathered, the amount of training depends on which MUBEC code(s) you are appointed to enforce as follows:

Residential Building Code	6 contact hours
Commercial Building Code	12 contact hours
Residential Energy Code	6 contact hours
Commercial Energy Code	6 contact hours
Residential Radon Code	3 contact hours
Indoor Residential Ventilation Code	2 contact hours
Indoor Commercial Ventilation Code	3 contact hours

Q: What do you mean by “enforce?”

A: The State Planning Office defines “enforce” as the municipal building official acting to either inspect buildings in accordance with 25 MRSA, sections 2351-2361, or to review inspection reports of third-party inspectors for accuracy, pursuant to a duly adopted municipal ordinance.

Q: Will a CEO be able to complete this amount of training with the year’s grace period?

A: The State Planning Office is committed to providing the training in a timely schedule so that a CEO can take all the training he or she needs to become certified within the grace period.

In addition, the Legislature created several options by which a municipality may enforce the MUBEC code(s) including contracting with other municipalities or using third-party inspectors. That way, a municipality could elect to have its CEO enforce just the residential building code in the first year, for example. In that case, the CEO would only need to become trained and certified in the residential code to start and the municipality could elect to use one of the other enforcement options for the commercial building, energy, and air quality codes. Then, when the CEO is ready, the municipality could appoint him or her to enforce another code and have a year in which to become trained and certified in that, and so on.

Q: Do I have to take an exam?

A: If you are not grandfathered, yes, you will need to take an exam for each MUBEC code that you are appointed to enforce.

Q: What are the grandfathering provisions?

A: A CEO that has continuously enforced any building code (as defined above) since August 1, 2008 or before, is exempted from the examination requirement for the code(s) he or she has been enforcing. To become recertified, a CEO who meets this grandfather provision need only take a

3-contact-hour update training provided by the Office for each of the code(s) for which they are grandfathered.

The State Planning Office will determine whether you are grandfathered based on information the municipality provides. Use the [application form](#) to request a grandfathering waiver of the building standards recertification examination requirement.

Q: When will exams be offered?

A: The State Planning Office will begin scheduling exams in September 2010.

Q: Will the State Planning Office provide me with a copy of the building code?

A: Yes, the State Planning Office will initially provide a building code book at no cost to municipalities over 2,000 population as part of the training offered through the Office.

Q: I am already certified through the International Code Council, do I have to be certified in Maine too?

A: No, a valid certification from a nationally recognized, building or energy code-related, professional certification program may substitute for Maine certification in any of the MUBEC codes, at the State Planning Office's discretion.

Q: When will the training be held?

A: The State Planning Office intends to begin scheduling the 3-hour update courses this summer. A full program of training courses in each of the MUBEC codes will begin be held beginning in September 2010.

Q: Will there be a cost for training?

A: No, there will be no cost to attend training for municipally-employed code enforcement officers or building officials.

Q: Will training be statewide?

A: Yes, the State Planning Office intends to offer a one-day training session in each of the MUBEC codes. Each training session will be offered in four (4) locations across the state. Training for indoor residential ventilation and indoor commercial ventilation codes will be scheduled together on the same day. The commercial energy code training will be an online training course.

For more information about training and certification: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/ceo/index.htm>

For more information about the new building code: <http://www.maine.gov/dps/bbcs/>

MMA also has a web site for information related to the new building code:
<http://www.memun.org/public/MMA/svc/SFR/BuildingCode/default.htm>